

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee,

My name is Elijah Walker, I reside at 3495 Kier drive here in Helena, and I am here in support of this bill.

We are all familiar with the Declaration of Independence; *we hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness---that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.*

The founding fathers recognized the responsibility of the government to protect the right to life of ALL men. This includes our elderly, the sick, the mentally disabled, and all others who are no longer deemed "a benefit to society".

The right to life is not given by the government; it is an unalienable right endowed by their Creator (even if you believe their creator is merely nature). When the government assumes responsibility for this right, we are left with out a real basis for who has the right to life. This leaves the standard in the hands of the government to change it at will.

These ideas of assisted suicide and eugenics stand in opposition to the values our great nation was founded upon. These ideas were the foundation of the empires of Hitler, Stalin, Hussein, and many other hated tyrants; and yet, we are entertaining them here in America.

If we allow these ideas to become ingrained in our society, we cannot expect America to continue to be the *land of the free and the home of the brave*, we will become just another dictatorship. Therefore I urge you for the sake of America, and all its citizens, please pass this bill.